

(2) CONTENTS.—An eligible entity shall include in an application under paragraph (1)—

(A) a commitment from the industry partner of the eligible entity to collaborate with the eligible entity to develop a training program, including curricula and internships or apprenticeships;

(B) a description of how the eligible entity plans to use the covered grant, including the type of training program the eligible entity plans to develop;

(C) a plan for recruitment of students and potential students to participate in the training program;

(D) a plan to increase female student participation in the training program of the eligible entity; and

(E) a description of potential jobs to be secured through the training program, including jobs in the communities surrounding the eligible entity.

(f) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use a covered grant, with respect to the training program of the eligible entity, to—

(1) hire faculty members to teach courses in the training program;

(2) train faculty members to prepare students for employment in jobs related to the deployment of next-generation wired and wireless communications networks, including 5G networks, hybrid fiber-coaxial networks, and fiber infrastructure, particularly in—

(A) broadband and wireless network engineering;

(B) network deployment and maintenance;

(C) industry field activities; and

(D) cybersecurity;

(3) design and develop curricula and other components necessary for degrees, courses, or programs of study, including certificate programs and credentialing programs, that comprise the training program;

(4) pay for costs associated with instruction under the training program, including the costs of equipment, telecommunications training towers, laboratory space, classroom space, and instructional field activities;

(5) fund scholarships, student internships, apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeship opportunities;

(6) recruit students for the training program; and

(7) support the enrollment in the training program of individuals working in the telecommunications industry in order to advance professionally in the industry.

(g) GRANT AWARDS.—

(1) DEADLINE.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which amounts are appropriated to the Fund pursuant to subsection (m), the Assistant Secretary shall award all covered grants.

(2) MINIMUM ALLOCATION TO CERTAIN ENTITIES.—The Assistant Secretary shall award not less than—

(A) 30 percent of covered grant amounts to historically Black colleges or universities; and

(B) 30 percent of covered grant amounts to Tribal Colleges or Universities.

(3) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—As part of the final rules issued under subsection (h), the Assistant Secretary shall develop criteria for evaluating applications for covered grants.

(4) COORDINATION.—The Assistant Secretary shall ensure that grant amounts awarded under paragraph (2) are coordinated with grant amounts provided under section 902 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260).

(5) CONSTRUCTION.—In awarding covered grants for training or education relating to construction, the Assistant Secretary may prioritize applicants that partner with—

(A) apprenticeship programs;

(B) pre-apprenticeship programs; or

(C) public 2-year community or technical colleges that have a written agreement with 1 or more apprenticeship programs.

(h) RULES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, after providing public notice and an opportunity to comment, the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education, shall issue final rules governing the Grant Program.

(i) TERM.—The Assistant Secretary shall establish the term of a covered grant, which may not be less than 5 years.

(j) GRANTEE REPORTS.—During the term of a covered grant received by an eligible entity, the eligible entity shall submit to the Assistant Secretary a semiannual report that, with respect to the preceding 6-month period—

(1) describes how the eligible entity used the covered grant amounts;

(2) describes the progress the eligible entity made in developing and executing the training program of the eligible entity;

(3) describes the number of faculty and students participating in the training program of the eligible entity;

(4) describes the partnership with the industry partner of the eligible entity, including—

(A) the commitments and in-kind contributions made by the industry partner; and

(B) the role of the industry partner in curriculum development, the degree program, and internships and apprenticeships; and

(5) includes data on internship, apprenticeship, and employment opportunities and placements.

(k) OVERSIGHT.—

(1) AUDITS.—The Inspector General of the Department of Commerce shall audit the Grant Program in order to—

(A) ensure that eligible entities use covered grant amounts in accordance with—

(i) the requirements of this section; and

(ii) the overall purpose of the Grant Program, as described in subsection (c); and

(B) prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in the operation of the Grant Program.

(2) REVOCATION OF FUNDS.—The Assistant Secretary shall revoke a grant awarded to an eligible entity that is not in compliance with the requirements of this section or the overall purpose of the Grant Program, as described in subsection (c).

(l) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Each year, until all covered grants have expired, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) identifies each eligible entity that received a covered grant and the amount of the covered grant;

(2) describes the progress each eligible entity described in paragraph (1) has made toward accomplishing the overall purpose of the Grant Program, as described in subsection (c);

(3) summarizes the job placement status or apprenticeship opportunities of students who have participated in the training program of the eligible entity; and

(4) includes the findings of any audits conducted by the Inspector General of the Department of Commerce under subsection (k)(1) that were not included in the previous report submitted under this subsection.

(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund a total of \$100,000,000 for fiscal years 2022 through 2027, to remain available until expended.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Assistant Secretary may use not more than 2 percent of the amounts appropriated to the Fund for the administration of the Grant Program.

SA 2161. Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted an amend-

ment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2137 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ROMNEY)) to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division D, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS TO RECEIVE PICK-SLOAN MISSOURI BASIN PROGRAM PUMPING POWER.

Section 5(a) of Public Law 89-108 (79 Stat. 435; 100 Stat. 419; 114 Stat. 2763A-284) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN IRRIGATION DISTRICTS TO RECEIVE PUMPING POWER.—

“(A) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE IRRIGATION DISTRICT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘eligible irrigation district’ means an irrigation district that is located in—

“(i) the test area referred to in paragraph (1); or

“(ii) an area within the 28,000-acre area described in paragraph (3) that is analyzed by the Secretary but not developed under that paragraph.

“(B) ELIGIBILITY.—An eligible irrigation district shall be eligible to receive Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program pumping power—

“(i) subject to any terms and at any rates established by the Secretary; and

“(ii) in accordance with a contract entered into under subparagraph (C).

“(C) CONTRACT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the Secretary may enter into a contract with an eligible irrigation district to provide Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program pumping power to the eligible irrigation district.

“(ii) REQUIREMENT.—No Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program pumping power may be delivered to an eligible irrigation district under this paragraph until the date on which a contract authorizing the delivery to the irrigation district is executed under clause (i).”.

SA 2162. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2137 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ROMNEY)) to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of division F, insert the following:

TITLE VI—TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY WORKFORCE

SEC. 60601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Act”.

SEC. 60602. TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part I of title III of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 344. TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

“(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘telecommunications interagency working

group' means the interagency working group established under subsection (b)(1).

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Chairman of the Commission, in partnership with the Secretary of Labor, shall establish within the Commission an interagency working group to develop recommendations to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry, including the safety of that workforce.

“(2) DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT.—The telecommunications interagency working group shall be considered established on the date on which a majority of the members of the working group have been appointed, consistent with subsection (d).

“(c) DUTIES.—In developing recommendations under subsection (b), the telecommunications interagency working group shall—

“(1) determine whether, and if so how, any Federal laws, regulations, guidance, policies, or practices, or any budgetary constraints, may be amended to strengthen the ability of institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) or for-profit businesses to establish, adopt, or expand programs intended to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry, including the workforce needed to build and maintain the 5G wireless infrastructure necessary to support 5G wireless technology;

“(2) identify potential policies and programs that could encourage and improve coordination among Federal agencies, between Federal agencies and States, and among States, on telecommunications workforce needs;

“(3) identify ways in which existing Federal programs, including programs that help facilitate the employment of veterans and military personnel transitioning into civilian life, could be leveraged to help address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry;

“(4) identify ways to improve recruitment in workforce development programs in the telecommunications industry;

“(5) identify Federal incentives that could be provided to institutions of higher education, for-profit businesses, State workforce development boards established under section 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111), or other relevant stakeholders to establish or adopt new programs, expand current programs, or partner with registered apprenticeship programs, to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry, including such needs in rural areas;

“(6) identify ways to improve the safety of telecommunications workers, including tower climbers; and

“(7) identify ways that trends in wages, benefits, and working conditions in the telecommunications industry impact recruitment of employees in the sector.

“(d) MEMBERS.—The telecommunications interagency working group shall be composed of the following representatives of Federal agencies and relevant non-Federal industry and labor stakeholder organizations:

“(1) A representative of the Department of Education, appointed by the Secretary of Education.

“(2) A representative of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, appointed by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

“(3) A representative of the Commission, appointed by the Chairman of the Commission.

“(4) A representative of a registered apprenticeship program in construction or

maintenance, appointed by the Secretary of Labor.

“(5) A representative of a telecommunications industry association, appointed by the Chairman of the Commission.

“(6) A representative of an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization, appointed by the Chairman of the Commission.

“(7) A representative of a rural telecommunications carrier, appointed by the Chairman of the Commission.

“(8) A representative of a telecommunications contractor firm, appointed by the Chairman of the Commission.

“(9) A representative of an institution of higher education described in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)), appointed by the Secretary of Education.

“(10) A public interest advocate for tower climber safety, appointed by the Secretary of Labor.

“(11) A representative of the Directorate of Construction of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, appointed by the Secretary of Labor.

“(12) A representative of a labor organization representing the telecommunications workforce, appointed by the Secretary of Labor.

“(e) NO COMPENSATION.—A member of the telecommunications interagency working group shall serve without compensation.

“(f) OTHER MATTERS.—

“(1) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—The telecommunications interagency working group shall name a chair and a vice chair, who shall be responsible for organizing the business of the working group.

“(2) SUBGROUPS.—The chair and vice chair of the telecommunications interagency working group, in consultation with the other members of the telecommunications interagency working group, may establish such subgroups as necessary to help conduct the work of the telecommunications interagency working group.

“(3) SUPPORT.—The Commission and the Secretary of Labor may detail employees of the Commission and the Department of Labor, respectively, to assist and support the work of the telecommunications interagency working group, though such a detailee shall not be considered to be a member of the working group.

“(g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

“(1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the telecommunications interagency working group is established, the working group shall submit a report containing its recommendations to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry to—

“(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

“(B) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

“(C) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

“(D) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives;

“(E) the Department of Labor; and

“(F) the Commission.

“(2) MAJORITY SUPPORT.—The telecommunications interagency working group may not submit the report under paragraph (1) unless the report has the support of not less than the majority of the members of the working group.

“(3) VIEWS.—The telecommunications interagency working group shall—

“(A) include with the report submitted under paragraph (1) any concurring or dissenting view offered by a member of the working group; and

“(B) identify each member to whom each concurring or dissenting view described in subparagraph (A) should be attributed.

“(4) PUBLIC POSTING.—The Commission and the Secretary of Labor shall make a copy of the report submitted under paragraph (1) available to the public on the websites of the Commission and the Department of Labor, respectively.

“(h) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACa.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the telecommunications interagency working group.”.

(b) SUNSET.—Section 344 of the Communications Act of 1934, as added by subsection (a), shall be repealed on the day after the date on which the interagency working group established under subsection (b)(1) of that section submits the report to Congress under subsection (g) of that section.

SEC. 60603. TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKFORCE GUIDANCE.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, in partnership with the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, shall establish and issue guidance on how States can address the workforce needs and safety of the telecommunications industry, including guidance on how a State workforce development board established under section 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111) can—

(1) utilize Federal resources available to States to meet the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry;

(2) promote and improve recruitment in workforce development programs in the telecommunications industry; and

(3) ensure the safety of the telecommunications workforce, including tower climbers.

SEC. 60604. GAO ASSESSMENT OF WORKFORCE NEEDS OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that estimates the number of skilled telecommunications workers that will be required to build and maintain—

(1) broadband infrastructure in rural areas, including estimates based on—

(A) current need; and

(B) projected need, if Congress enacts legislation that accelerates broadband infrastructure construction in the United States; and

(2) the wireless infrastructure needed to support 5G wireless technology.

SA 2163. Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WICKER, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2137 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ROMNEY)) to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following: